

# Under-Age Drinking



Are You Willing to  
Pay the Price?

*A true story about a young lance  
corporal's  
choice that set back his career.*

## “The Road Ahead”

The “Road Ahead” policy letter from Brigadier General Duane Thiessen, Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, says that any reportable incident, on or off duty (e.g. heat-related injury, alcohol, liberty, personal misconduct, etc.), will result in an immediate review to assess accountability of individuals.

This is how the story goes . . .



1 fifth of Captain Morgan -  
\$15

## Results of NJP for under-age drinking



- Reduction to PFC
- 60 days restriction
- $\frac{1}{2}$  month pay for two months with  $\frac{3}{4}$  of that pay suspended

## Monthly cost of losing a stripe

### 2005 Monthly Pay Scale

Base pay for LCPL\_\_\_\_\_ \$1,456.20

Base pay for PFC\_\_\_\_\_ \$1,384.50

**TOTAL LOSS\_\_\_\_\_ \$71.70 per  
month**

Time it takes to make up stripe

**8 MONTHS TO BE PROMOTED  
TO LANCE CORPORAL AGAIN**



8 months x \$71.70 =  
**\$573.60 in base pay lost**

## Time to CPL before NJP

- He had one month to go before being eligible for corporal.
- In his MOS he could have picked up corporal on 1 Feb 2005. He would have earned a base pay of \$1,695.60. Instead he got PFC base pay of \$1,384.50.
- It will take him 17 months to be eligible for corporal again.
- This is an estimated loss of \$311.10 per month, had he been a corporal.

**17 months x \$311.10 =**

**\$5,288.70 Estimated Promotion Earnings  
Lost**



## NJP fine

- One half pay for two months,  $\frac{3}{4}$  suspended.
- Base pay = \$1,384.50 / 2 = \$692.25 per mo.
- $\frac{3}{4}$  suspended fine = \$1,038.38

**Total Fine Received = \$346.12**



## Other losses and punishment



- Sixty days restriction
- Lost MCMAP gray belt
- Leave cancelled
- **Lost \$620.00** on plane ticket home
- Missed Christmas at home
- Family disappointed
- Loss of confidence from leadership
- Had to give a presentation

## Total dollar amount lost

- Bottle of Captain Morgan\_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00
- 8 months of LCPL base pay lost\_\_\_\_\_ \$573.60
- Estimated CPL earnings lost\_\_\_\_\_ \$5,288.70
- NJP fine\_\_\_\_\_ \$346.12
- Plane ticket home\_\_\_\_\_ \$620.00

**TOTAL ESTIMATED LOSS\_\_\_\_\_ \$6,843.42**

## What he could have done with the money he lost

- Bought a car
- Bought a new ATV
- Invested in Ameritrade 
- Gone on a cruise
- Bought a jet ski
- Paid off  $\frac{3}{4}$  of truck payment
- Bought everyone in MALS a \$10 Christmas gift 
- Paid for entire family to visit

## Positives

- Life-learning experience
- Learned to think about the whole outcome of something before acting by using the four principles of ORM:
  - *Accept risk when benefits outweigh the cost.*
  - *Accept no unnecessary risks.*
  - *Anticipate and manage risk by planning.*
  - *Make risk decisions at the right level.*

## More lessons learned

- Learned how to create a presentation.
- Learned that there are not too many things positive about under-age drinking.

## Rum cost analysis **before** NJP

- 1 bottle = 750 ml
- 750 ml = 25 oz
- 25 oz = 25 shots per bottle

**1 bottle @ \$15.00 = \$.60 per shot**



## Rum cost analysis **after** NJP

- 1 bottle = 750 ml
- 750 ml = 25 oz
- 25 oz = 25 shots per bottle

**1 bottle @ \$6,843.42 = \$273.74 per  
shot**

